

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00 DHA-02

SY-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 /029 W

----- 044203

R 170945Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4952

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: CONFISCATION OF AMMUNITION FROM US SEAMAN

1. NOVEMBER 16 AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA CARRIED A SHORT ITEM ON ITS FRONT PAGE HEADLINED "ARMS SEIZED FROM MAN IN US VESSEL." STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT A TOTAL OF 2500 ROUND OF CARTRIDGES FOR RIFLES AND REVOLVERS WAS SALVAGED FROM A MEMBER OF THE CREW ON SATURDAY.

2. WE WERE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN ON NOVEMBER 16 THAT THE VESSEL IN QUESTION WAS THE SS "EXPORT AGENT" (US VESSEL AND US CREW) WHICH HAD EARLIER IN THE WEEK UNLOADED A CONSIGNMENT OF SHOTGUN SHELLS AT COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, FOR THE LOCAL POLICE. OUR SOURCES SAY SRI LANKA CUSTOMS NOTICED THE SHORTAGE IN THE CONSIGNMENT AFTER THE VESSEL HAD DEPARTED AND THEY NOTIFIED CALCUTTA CUSTOMS, AS CALCUTTA WAS NEXT PORT OF CALL. ON NOVEMBER 15 AT APPROXIMATELY NOON, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SEARCHED THE SHIP AND SHORTLY AFTER NOON FOUND THE 2075 SHOTGUN SHELLS (NOT 2500 ROUNDS) PACKAGED AND ADDRESSED TO ONE MRS. SINGLETON, WIFE OF ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS.

3. CALCUTTA CUSTOMS HAS CONFISCATED THE AMMUNITION BUT HAS NOT ARRESTED THE CREWMAN EVEN THOUGH THE AMMUNITION WAS FOUND IN HIS QUARTERS AND ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE. WE UNDERSTAND CUSTOMS CONSIDERS THIS A MATTER OF PETTY THEFT AND DO NOT INTEND TO PURSUE IT

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FURTHER.

4. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THE AGENTS OF THE SS EXPORT AGENT THAT THE CREWMAN SINGLETON WILL PROBABLY BE DISMISSED UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN THE US PORT.

5. CONSULAR OFFICER MET ON NOVEMBER 17 WITH THE CAPTAIN AND PURSER OF SS EXPORT AGENT WHO CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, AND 4.

6. BPAO BRADLEY AND I WILL BE RAISING THIS WITH THE PUBLISHER OF AMRITA SINCE THE ARTICLE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING ARMS INTO INDIA, WE WILL BE ASKING FOR A PUBLICATION OF A CORRECTION.

7. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY SINCE IT INVOLVES THE POSSIBLE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF AMMUNITION INTO THE US.
KORN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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